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# BIG HILL STATE SCHOOL NO.1551



Big Hill School no. 1551



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## Location

5644 CALDER HIGHWAY, BIG HILL - PROPERTY NUMBER 216225, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO743

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 13, 2023

### What is significant?

The Big Hill School no. 1551 site, including all the fabric of the 1880s brick building, residence and grounds, is significant.

### How is it significant?

The Big Hill School no. 1551 is of local historical, architectural and social significance for the City of Greater Bendigo.

### Why is it significant?

The Big Hill School no. 1551 is historically significant for its association with the provision of early educational facilities, which had an important role in the developing community. When compared to the construction of timber schools, and the use of portable schools in other Mclvor and Strathfieldsaye communities, the permanence of the brick school building reflects the ambitions of Big Hill as an enduring community. *Criterion A*

The Big Hill School no. 1551 is largely intact and in good condition. Although having undergone alterations, the School is of architectural significance for its unusual bichrome brickwork featuring cream string coursing against a red background. The school has a gable roof, bargeboards and finial. The adjacent teacher's residence has a verandah detailed with timber posts and a balustrade. This building was renovated in 1908, again in 1915 and converted to library facilities in 1984. Other additions to the School include four classrooms and a toilet block during the 1990s. The grounds of the Big Hill State School are also important as representative example of prize winning school gardens during the 1930s. It is one of several brick schools in the study area, and there are several examples of brick primary schools in the City of Greater Bendigo. *Criterion D*

The School is of social significance for the Big Hill community as a place of continuous education since the early 1870s. *Criterion G*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Former Shires of Mclvor and Strathfieldsaye Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2008;
Construction dates	1880,
Hermes Number	33057
Property Number	

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### Physical Description 1

Big Hill Primary School comprises a school and attached residence. It is designed in bichrome brickwork featuring cream string coursing against a red background. Stone has been used on the plinth. The school has a gable roof, bargeboards and finial. The windows to the side elevation have been bricked in. The residence has a verandah detailed with timber posts and a balustrade. A number of contemporary buildings are on the site but these are not of interest.

Big Hill Primary School conforms to the standard plans designed by the Education Department Architects of the late 19th Century.

### Physical Conditions

Good

### Integrity

High

### Historical Australian Themes

8. Building Community Life

## 8.2 Educating People

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*